

# Health Care Careers

## MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

### Description

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS work in offices of doctors, dentists, optometrists, and all types of medical clinics and facilities. Medical Assistants perform a variety of tasks such as assisting physicians in treating patients, taking patient medical histories, preparing patients for examinations, arranging and caring for instruments and equipment in examination rooms. They also complete and maintain patient records, schedule appointments, and arrange for hospital admissions.

### Requirements

- Completion of medical assistant training.
- High school graduate or equivalent desirable.
- Good health.
- Business-like appearance and good grooming.
- Good verbal skills.
- Pleasant and courteous personality.
- Certification by American Association of Medical Assistants is desirable.
- Fingerprint clearance is required for certification.

### Sources of Information

- American Association of Medical Assistants, (312) 899-1500, [www.aama-ntl.org](http://www.aama-ntl.org).
- *California Occupational Guide*, No. 513, Medical Assistants.

### Wages

Medical Assistants earn a median hourly wage of \$13.00. The average annual wage is \$27,569.

*Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2001 by EDD/LMID.*

### Job Outlook

- Estimated number of Medical Assistants in 1998: 39,500
- Estimated number of Medical Assistants in 2008: 70,000
- Estimated annual job openings: 4,400

*Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.*

### Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.